

BUTTRAM ESTATE
7316 Nichols Road
Nichols Hills
Oklahoma
Oklahoma

HALS OK-19
OK-19

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

BUTTRAM ESTATE

HALS NO. OK-19

Location: 7316 Nichols Rd, Nichols Hills, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
Lat: 35.55718 Long: -97.53322

Significance: The Buttram Estate, located in Nichols Hills, Oklahoma, was the former home of oil baron and philanthropist, Frank Buttram and his wife Merle. The mansion located on the estate is an excellent example of the Italian Renaissance style for the architecture and the landscape architecture. Once home to the Oklahoma Museum of Art, the Buttram Estate is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a designated landmark in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory.

History: Completed in 1938 on 89 acres, the 20,000 square foot Buttram mansion was designed by the San Antonio based architectural firm Ayers & Ayers, in the Italian Renaissance style. A landscape architect, Homer L. Fry, also of San Antonio prepared the site plan in 1929. The 8 year span between the beginning of the site planning and the finished mansion ensured the grounds would look more mature when the Buttram family moved into the residence. The mansion is located on the highest point of the property which affords great views of the various landscape elements, including statues, alleys of evergreen, terraces, formal gardens, pools, and fountains.

From 1968 to 2002, the Buttram Mansion was home to the Oklahoma Museum of Art. Today, the mansion is back in private ownership and sits on a site of about five acres. The other 84 acres of the estate are now part of a quaint residential neighborhood that has developed in the area.

Sources: Boren, Lyle H., and Dale Boren. "Who is Who in Oklahoma: A Biographical History of Men and Women in Oklahoma Life Today." Guthrie, OK: The Co-operative Publishing Company, 1935.

Buttram, Merle, with J. Landis Fleming. "One Man's Footprints: The Story of Frank Buttram." Muskogee, OK: Western Heritage Books, 1985.

Glasscock, C.B. "Then Came Oil: The Story of the Last Frontier." New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1938.

Harlow, Rex. "Successful Oklahomans: A Compilation of Biographical Sketches." Oklahoma City, OK: Harlow Publishing Company, 1927.

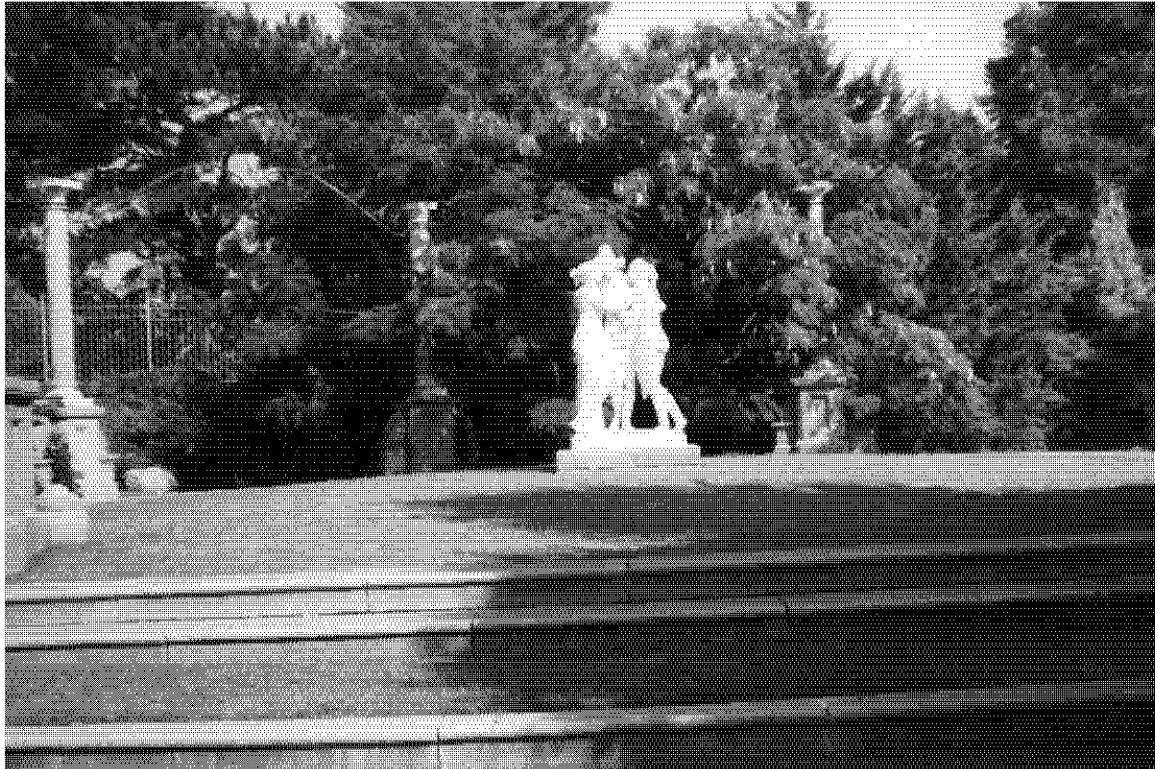
"Frank and Merle Buttram House and Grounds." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.
<http://www.oci.okstate.edu/shpo/nhrpdfs/90001367.pdf> (accessed May 2, 2009).

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View of South elevation (Steve Eilers, 2009).



View of statues atop a terrace (Steve Eilers, 2009).